(c) what is the reaction of Pakistan to this offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

भारत के परमाणु मुद्दे पर अमरीका का दृष्टिकोण

2517. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:**
श्री रामगोपाल यादव:

क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उन्होंने अपने किसी दूत के माध्यम से अमरीकी विदेश उपमंत्री से परमाणु मुद्दे पर कोई बातचीत की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो बातचीत का ब्यौरा क्या है और उससे अमरीका का रुख कैसा रहा; और

(ग) बातचीत के दौरान अमरीकी रुख पर भारत की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) और (ख) प्रधान मंत्री के विशेष दूत श्री जसवंत सिंह ने अप्रसार तथा निरस्त्रीकरण एवं अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा स्थिति सहित भारत एवं संयुक्त राज्य के आपसी हितों से संबंधित विभिन्न मसलों पर रचनात्मक चर्चा की है।

(ग) जिस मुक्त और सौहार्दपूर्ण वातावरण में दोनों पक्षों ने अपने विचारों का आदान-प्रदान किया तथा दोनों देश अपनी वार्ता जारी रखने के लिए सहमत हो गये हैं, सरकार उसका स्वागत करती है। यह आपसी हित के सभी मसलों पर संयुक्त राज्य के साथ रचनात्मक वार्ता में शामिल होने की भारत की बचनबद्धता के अनुरूप है।

Applications for Passports in Kerala

2518. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passport offices in Kerala received large number of applications for passports;

(b) if so, the total applications received during the last three years in Calicut, Cochin and Trivandrum;

(c) whether any change has been made in the rules for issuing passports; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Total applications received in the last three years in Calicut, Cochin and Trivandrum is given below:

	1995	1996	1997
Calicut	133067	140574	148055
Cochin	80686	84710	105615
Trivandrum	90432	77106	92522

(c) and (d) The Passport Rules 1980 have not been formally amended in the recent past. Administrative procedures for issue of passports however have been streamlined. Some of the steps taken in this regard include application forms to be made available free of charge, acceptance of self-attested copies of supporting documents, expansion of list of officers authorised to sign Verification Certificate, fixing of time limit for police verification, automatic re-issue of passport after final expiry, issue of twenty year passport in addition to ten year passport, issue of sixty page jumbo passport booklet for frequent travellers, issue of passport on out-of-turn basis in specified emergencies etc.

Marketing infrastructure for handling bumper crop of apples

2519. DR ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to newsitem which appeared in the Indian Express, dated 18th June, 1998 captioned "the problem of plenty" relating to bumper harvest of apples;

(b) if so, the steps being initiated to liaise with the food processing industry in the country to take timely advantage of the bumper crop; and

(c) whether coordination is being maintained with the State Government of Himachal Pradesh to gear up its machinery to set the marketing infrastructure in place to handle the anticipated heavy crop, in the interest of the apple growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Food processing Industries under its Plan Schemes provides financial assistance in the form of soft loans (at only 4% rate of interest) and grant-in-aid to Cooperatives, Non-Government Organisations, Public Sector Undertakings and Private Sector Undertakings for development of processed food industries which includes processing of apples. During the period 1992-93, financial assistance of Rs. 9.43 crores has been extended in respect of proposals received from the State of Himachal Pradesh for creation of infrastructural facilities including cold chain, setting up/ expansion/modernisation of processing units etc. The assistance provided also covers apple processing units.

State Government of Himachal Pradesh has identified Director of Industries Government of Himachal Pradesh as the Nodal Agency processed food industries. Close interaction with all Nodal Agencies including that of Himachal Pradesh is maintained for development of this sector.

Wind Power Projects in Gujarat

2520. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of wind power projects which are functional at present in Gujarat, district-wise;

(b) whether Government are aware that the State has more potential for generating wind power;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to establish more wind power projects in the State to tap the potential; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The district-wise operational wind power capacity at present in the State of Gujarat is given below:

District	Operational Wind Power Capacity (MW)
Jamnagar	57
Rajkot	65
Kutch	2

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Wind power projects are now being undertaken by the private sector as commercial projects. Further wind power capacity addtion in the State to tap the potential will depend upon early announcement of a conducive policy by the State Government, technical feasibility, economic viability and continuation of fiscal and promotional incentives.

Schemes for Non-Conventional Energy Development

2521. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the scheme in operation under the non-conventional energy sector in the country;

(b) the scheme-wise details of their operational status, financial allocations and achievements made since 1996;

(c) reasons for very low performance of this sector in the State of Assam and steps taken for improvement; and

(d) the details of proposals, if any, Pending for clearance?